

Chester C. Bolton House (Casa Apava)  
1300 South Ocean Boulevard  
Palm Beach  
Palm Beach Co.  
Florida

HABS No. FLA-232

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FLA,  
50-PALM  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

## CHESTER C. BOLTON HOUSE (Casa Apava)

Location: 1300 South Ocean Boulevard, Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida.

Present Owner: Hon. Frances P. Bolton, 1800 Richmond Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44120.

Present Occupant: Continuous seasonal occupation by the Chester C. Bolton family.

Present Use: Congresswoman Frances P. Bolton's winter residence.

Significance: Considered representative of an architectural era in South Florida, and bears the imprint of a well-known architect of the day, who was also the son of a President of the United States. It is also the winter residence of one of the most distinguished public figures in the United States Government. The Bolton House also represents the transition period from cottage colony to the larger structures of the boom years.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: Main house, ca. 1918-1919. Addition, 1929.
2. Architect: James A. Garfield, of Garfield, Harris, Robinson, & Schafer.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Mr. and Mrs. Chester C. Bolton.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Not known.
5. Original plan and construction: This building was constructed in the same sense as "Figulus" (Bingham-Blossom House, HABS No. FLA-221) located to the north. Built on the ocean hammock ridge, the house took advantage of the ocean view and cool sea breeze. The main house and servants' quarters are original. The pool and library wing were added later.
6. Alterations and additions: The library wing and the porches on the first and second floors of the north end of the building are part of an addition of 1929 by Prentice Sanger of New York. The only obvious alteration in the building is the glazing of the upper porch of this addition. There seems to have been originally a porch attached to the master bedroom. It is now used for the master bedroom itself.

The boxed room in the north section of the library seems to have been added as a cabana for the pool, which is believed to have been built after the library addition.

B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Building:

Mrs. Frances Payne Bolton was Miss Frances Payne Bingham before her marriage to Chester Castle Bolton about 1925. Her parents, Charles William Bingham and his wife Mary Payne Bingham, of Cleveland, Ohio, were the owners of "Figulus" (Bingham-Blossom House) nearby. Frances Bingham was one of a group of nieces and nephews of Oliver Hazard Payne (one of the original members of the Standard Oil organization) for whom he provided trust funds.

Frances Payne Bolton came to Florida and Palm Beach the first time when she was only fifteen. She then stayed at her family's house, "Figulus," at 1250 South Ocean Boulevard, nearby. This was in 1896 and the 1897 winter season. "Casa Apava" was built for the newly married Boltons. Mrs. Bolton gave the house its special name soon after its completion. It is described as having come from the Sanskrit, meaning "he who sports in the water" and has reference, no doubt, to the Bolton's eldest son, Charles, who was a swimmer. Charles was crippled in a swimming accident in 1927. This accident has been said to have occurred on the Bolton estate, but it actually occurred on a lake at a boys' summer camp near Boston. Charles was working as a camp counselor when he slipped while diving from a platform into the lake. This threw him off balance so that he hit the water in such a way that it broke his back. This was in the summer of 1927.

Chester Castle Bolton of Cleveland (b. Sept. 5, 1882-d. Oct. 29, 1939) was a United States Senator from 1929 to 1939. His death in that year left a vacancy in the Congress. Frances Payne Bolton was then elected to fill this vacancy left by the death of her husband for the 77th Congress in 1940. She also served in the 77-81st Congresses.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Bingham Family Album, in the possession of Mary Blossom Lee (Mrs. John Lee), of Riviera Beach, Florida. [Old views.] [See also Bingham-Blossom House, HABS No. FLA-221].

Interview with Reed B. Fuller, AIA, Palm Beach Chapter of the Historic Preservation Committee.

Summary of Architectural Notes for the Historical Society of Palm Beach County, by Reed B. Fuller, AIA. [See Supplemental Material and/or Field Record.]

2. Secondary and published sources:

Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1949, Washington, D. C. United States Government Printing Office, 1950.

Hoffstot, Barbara D. Landmark Architecture of Palm Beach. Pittsburgh: Ober Park Associates, Inc., Copyright 1974 by Mrs. Henry P. Hoffstot.

Loth, David. A Long Way Forward: The Biography of Congresswoman Frances P. Bolton. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1957.

Who Was Who in America, Vol. 1, 1897-1942. Chicago: Marquis Who's Who Inc., 1943.

D. Supplemental Material:

Significant statements from the Summary of Architectural Notes provided to HABS as field records, by Reed B. Fuller, AIA, Palm Beach Chapter, and prepared for the Historic Preservation Committee, of Palm Beach, will greatly assist the reader in the absence of plans, and are as follows:

Exterior of the Residence: . . . the exterior reflects the interior plan arrangement faithfully, and in scale shows a rather intimate feeling, although the dimensions of the building are quite large. Rather than a porte-cochère entry, the house has a striking motor entrance way, which passes completely beneath the house at the lowest level, and thus giving private access to pleasing corridor approach to the large diameter spiral enclosed stair. With touches of ironwork, and penetrations here and there, this stair has a charming scale, and promptly suggests a homelike quality inherent in the spaces. The exterior shows a blend of English "country manor" flavor with rough stucco, exposed wall framing, and casement windows, along with sympathetic Spanish details at fenestration. . . . The overall charm of the exterior is enhanced by the hipped, Cuban tile roof of a type, size, and color not found today.

Interior of the Residence: Living room has a fine scale, with tall, detailed wood casement sash on the east and west sides, with entry from the foyer on the south, and with double, glazed, single-swing doors [opening] to the North, on a fine covered terrace, which overlooks rolling turf to the swimming pool. An outstanding feature of this room is the one-of-a-kind magnificent painted cypress ceiling, with delicate lattice moldings, and with accompanying gold and brown spool ornament. . . . This space . . . receives much natural light, tinted with the colors inherent in the foliage of the exterior landscaping.

Library . . . this room, with high ceiling, represents a tour-de-force by Mr. Sanger, and incorporates a Spanish modified scale in its details. Much interest evolves from the unusual, tall, wood casement windows, with textured cast stone, decorative heads, and free-standing, floral terminal curlicues, superimposed square crosses, and fine-cut dentil courses. Wrought-iron lighting fixtures, and hand-carved cabinet and millwork details enhance the

effect of years. The atmosphere of a private "study" is retained --although the space is large; this room also opens to the adjacent swimming-pool terrace.

Dining Room . . . this room, with fenestration to the east and west, has a fireplace at the south wall, and also an unusually fine imitation marble floor, which has been achieved by direct painting to a concrete, troweled base. From openings on either side of the fireplace, one may continue to a charming breakfast room, which has two exposures to the east and south. The furnishings in these rooms are in harmony with the architectural features, and merit recording for their special, appropriate design.

Second-Floor Spaces . . . leading from the stair landing, there are a series of finely scaled sleeping rooms, with clearly stated architectural features. Several rooms are furnished with arched plaster ceilings, and the north room includes a series of casement windows, on the north side, in a playful motif, suggesting a solarium, and from this room, leads a charming wood-framed stairway down to the main floor level with a close entry to the Library wing. Other retiring rooms and baths are not noteworthy, however the overall impression is one of gracious liveability, in all spaces throughout this great house . . . .

Grounds . . . General Location: The Bolton property consists of approximately (not identified) acres in the most exclusive area of Palm Beach. This is the narrow part of the island, starting on the north with the Post Estate [HABS No. FLA-195] and ending on the south with the Neuman Estate. Most all properties in this section are ocean-to-lake estates upward of 10 acres. All properties are crossed by the Fla. A-1-A right-of-way. The estate includes part of the Bingham Islands in Lake Worth.

The topography of the land and its general planting treatment is similar to the neighboring Bingham-Blossom Estate. The Bolton property was originally part of the Bingham Estate (Potter home-stead.)

East Garden . . . The house is situated on the bluff, running north-south, and on the windward side the flora must be resistive to salt spray. Beyond the terrace is zoysia lawn which is the full-length of the main building and runs out to the ocean seawall about 300 feet. This part of the lawn is clear of any trees. The lawn runs north-south in front of the seawall for the full length of the property. The depth of the continuous lawn along the seawall is approximately 65' deep and randomly planted with coconut palms. Beyond the concrete seawall is a graded beach with wood pier groins dividing the ocean frontage into thirds.

The area of the lawn that is 300 ' deep is bordered on the north and south by massings of coconut trees, seagrape, and yucca borders. The plant massings turn and run parallel to the seawall where the lawn is only 65' deep.

Approach Drive . . . The tree massing opens up where the approach drive turns north to the main entrance of the house. This allows guests a view of the ocean and ocean lawn before seeing the house. The approach road is in a dense jungle setting of ornamental palms and hardwoods. This dense planting is continuous upon entering the property gates and is not broken until the road turns as mentioned. The plantings making up the jungle setting are more exotic than those that border the ocean lawn because they are more protected from the salt spray. Some of the trees of the jungle are banyans, ficus, gumbo limbo, coconut palms, sable palms, sago palms, Chinese fan palms, buttonwood, shefleara, silk oaks, and African tulip trees. The approach road goes under the breezeway that leads to the service wing . . . loops around completely encircling the service wing, while the plantings screen out the laundry yard and any other objectionable view.

Palm Garden . . . It lies north of the Spanish motif entrance gates and approach road, running along the A-1-A right-of-way and separated by a masonry wall from the roadway is an exotic palm garden. The palms and hardwoods grow so densely here that the direct sunlight never reaches the ground, as a result the ground is free of any undergrowth. The palms are mostly imported species such as African oil, Chinese fan, anonedieas, date, and seforthia varieties supplementing the natural jungle. This is Mrs. Bolton's favorite garden and she gives strict orders that it be left to grow in a natural state without any pruning. As a result, fronds droop across the stepping stone pathway that winds through the garden making it an adventure to walk there.

The West Lawn. . . The palm garden pathway ends when it opens to the west lawn which is situated directly north of the garden. The west lawn gives a clear view from the house to Lake Worth. It is relatively free of any palm trees, except at its edges. The topography follows the natural slope down from the bluff towards the Lake. It is reflected up in a man-made berm in order to screen the automobiles along A-1-A. At the apex of the berm is an ornamental fountain and on either side are stairs leading down to the highway level. A garden wall and gates along the highway give security. From the top of the bluff, where the house stands, one can see beyond the fountain through an avenue of Cuban royal palms to the waters of Lake Worth and the Bingham Islands beyond. The avenue is lawned and clear except for its borders of royal palms and dense natural growth. There is a rubble seawall the full length of the property along the lake.

Tennis Courts . . . North of the west lawn and bordering the A-1-A wall is a chain-link fenced area with two all-purpose tennis courts.

Citrus Grove . . . Directly north of the tennis courts another chain-link fenced area contains an extensive citrus and tropical fruit garden. Many varieties were experimental at their time of planting, and are found nowhere else today.

Pool and Patio . . . Directly north of the house is the patio and pool area. The patio is adjoining the house and decorated with brilliant yellow and blue tiles in the Spanish style. There is a stationary masonry table with a matching semicircular masonry bench decorated with the same tiles. In the center of the patio is a small hexagonal pool and fountain. North of the patio and separated from it by lawn is a large quarry Key swimming-pool and apron patio. North and east of the pool is a low quarry Key wall with built-in tile benches and a high lattice-work fence above.

Bolt's Trail . . . From the northwest corner of the pool patio Bolt's Trail begins. The trail is a concrete walkway through a maintained jungle garden leading to the Charles Bolton house (modern) and the Bingham-Blossom House(historic) where it ends. The trail is maintained on the Bolten end, and features mostly Chinese fan palms and ferns. At the Blossom end of the trail the jungle is in its natural state, and consists mainly of hardwoods, vines, and airplants. . . .

Lath Houses . . . West of A-1-A and south of the avenue of royal palms is an area for the cultivation of cutting flowers and house plants. The plants were originally grown in lath houses, but today only one house stands. The Bolton Estate during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s was locally famous for the carnations and sweet peas grown there. In yearly competitions the Garden Club of Palm Beach awarded the gardens with many gold and blue ribbons.

Accessory Buildings . . . South of the lath houses are the garages, caretaker's house, and an elaborate boat house. The boat house is built on pilings on the lake. It was originally done in Spanish motif, but has recently been reworked with some Regency influence.

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PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The exterior of this large house is informally composed in a complex combination of levels and volumms expressing the various rooms and their relevant activities on a large scale. Nevertheless, entrance to this large-scale residence is by way of an intimate entrance porch off the depressed motor driveway on the south side.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent. The house has been continuously occupied, seasonally, by the original family, and consequently both house and grounds receive constant maintenance.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This house measures approximately 162'-0" along the north-south direction, both lake facade and ocean facade, and the depth is approximately 73'-0". It is essentially three stories high, plus a tower that provides a fourth level. The layout and shape is very irregular.
2. Foundations: Unknown. The basement walls are of concrete.
3. Wall construction, finish, and color: The walls are of rough stucco, painted pink-beige. The long east wall terminates on the north a one-story gabled addition. The doorway in this wall to the terrace projects five feet under a gabled roof. There is a wood-bracketed bay window at the second floor on the northern end of the wall. The south wall of the one-story addition is of smooth stucco containing windows framed with coursed cast stone and a lintel with a cartouche. The latter is decorated with a shell and shield design surrounded by floral scrolls. A cast stone spandrel is set below the opening. The east wall is plain, except for two small-scale shell plaques disposed symmetrically about a central plaque decorated with a unicorn. The cornice of this wing is deep cast stone with a molded architrave, a panel frieze containing a cross superimposed on two banded circular globes in high relief. Dentils and modillions above this panel are surmounted by carved tassels and beads and a crown molding decorated with acanthus.
4. Structural system and framing: Unknown.
5. Porches, terraces, loggias, patios:
  - a. Entrance porch: At the base of the south end wall is a low-ceilinged entrance porch under a three-story building mass. One side is open directly from the depressed motor drive to a small vestibule with an ascending spiral staircase with tile risers.



At its open side this porch has round paired columns with modified water leaf capitals. The columns are set transversely to define three bays. The floor is of square coral-rock pavers set diagonally. Walls are rough stucco, with an arched niche in the east wall. The plastered ceiling is painted with a vine fresco, between the exposed buff-colored beams, which is also decorated with a painted design. Projecting from the exterior wall is a tile-covered shed roof supported by a scrolled pair of metal brackets.

- b. East terrace: The east terrace extends across the east front from the library wing on the north to the depressed motor drive below it on the south. Here on the southeast corner a tile-capped buttress becomes a 5'-0" high wall which extends eastward for approximately 15 feet. This wall is capped with a gabled tile coping. At the center the wall rises to 6' above a glazed handpainted tile bench. The southeast corner of the terrace is enclosed by a concrete balustrade which continues along the east. The balustrade is 26" high and set between paneled concrete pedestals, 32" high. Engaged to each pedestal under the 10" wide concrete railing is a cast winged lion facing the subsequent row of balusters.

There are three bays of balustrade on each side of the wide opening on the axis of the east door. At this opening broad concrete steps lead down five glazed-tile risers to the grassy lawn. A similar set of balustraded steps is at the extreme north end of the terrace adjacent to the library wing. The floor of the terrace is of slate pavers in a random ashlar pattern, bordered by red clay tiles 2" x 6". These tiles are used to further define the bays established by the sections of the balustrade. The bay in front of the doorway is elaborately decorated with tiles. Two bands of red tiles enclose a middle band of yellow and blue glazed tiles forming a large diamond pattern, in the center of which is a 2'-0" square pattern of painted tiles combined with solid yellow and blue tiles. Radiating diagonals to the diamond are formed by a double row of the small red tiles. Palm trees are growing at random in grassy beds on the terrace. Below the balustrade on the east is a hedge of seagrape. On the east wall of the house, north and south of the entrance doorways are small wrought-iron balconies above the terrace floor. Below the south balustrade, but with no access to the terrace is a flight of balustraded concrete steps leading twelve risers down to the asphalt drive.

- c. North loggia: At the north end of the house is an open loggia overlooking a terrace and a patio-surrounded swimming pool. It is five bays across and two bays deep. The smooth-plaster arched openings spring from modified Ionic columns engaged to piers. The shafts of the interior columns are twisted.

Corresponding pilasters are engaged above brackets on the south wall. The floor is red hexagonal clay tile, bordered by a band of embossed hexagonal tiles, within a band of small square tiles. The ceiling is sex-partite plastered vaulting. The open terrace north of the loggia is floored in a field of large square red tiles inlaid with a diamond circumscribed by a square in yellow, blue, and green tiles. There is a hexagonal fountain with a 6" curb faced with painted glazed tiles. Similar tiles are used on a large circular table and semi-circular bench on the western edge of the terrace. A low wrought-iron railing set between coral-rock pedestals surrounds the terrace.

- d. West loggia: West of the living room is another loggia, three bays wide. The arched openings are supported by Doric columns and Doric pilasters at the wall. At the north end, plastered rectangular piers support cartouched arches. The floor is of cast stone in a pattern of squares and rectangles in red, black, and buff colors, with a narrow black border. The plastered ceiling has shallow, exposed, closely spaced beams with a design of blue triangles decorating the sides.
6. Chimneys: Several stuccoed chimneys with plain or elaborate wind caps rise through the roof. The tall southern-most chimney is connected to the tower by an arched buttress.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The wall at the projecting east terrace entrance is ornamented to form a two-story frontispiece surrounding the doorway and windows above. At the terrace level the doorway is framed by Tuscan-like columns with the necking decorated with two symmetrically disposed rosettes. Resting on the abacus is a small entablature block carved with acanthus. Above this is a cornice projecting slightly over the door. Under it is a cast stone scallop shell. Upon the cornice, directly over each column, is a single pulvinated frieze segment, carved with rosettes on its east face, and supporting a large crown molding segment which supports engaged finials. Above the finials a drilled molding surrounds a square-shouldered cast-stone panel in which are centered two symmetrically placed casement window pairs. At the center of the composition a projecting angle of the molding holds a pseudo-armorial escutcheon surmounted by a crown in high relief.

The doorway in this composition at the east entrance is surrounded by simply molded jambs terminating at the lintel in flattened scrolls. The oak doors, 2'-6" x 7'-5" x 2-1/4", contain four horizontal lights, 22" x 17". They are flanked by matching sidelights, and surmounted by a fixed three-light transom. On the second floor above are French doors, 1'-6" x 9'-0", with four lights, 13" x 17".

The main entrance door in the south wall is at the depressed or sunken motor court level. It is a single solid oak door, 3'-2" x 6' x 2-1/2", containing a single modified linenfold panel. The key-shaped escutcheon is of filigreed wrought iron. The screen doors are divided into horizontal panels with turned spools in each panel.

On the west loggia, the French doors, 2'-4" x 9'-3" x 2-1/4", contain three lights, 20" x 21", over a small inset panel. On the north wall of the living room there are three pairs of French doors, 2'-0" x 7'-0", with three lights, 19-1/2" square over a plain panel containing a rosette in relief. Above these doors are fixed single-light fans with a decorative wrought-iron grille on both the interior and the exterior. They are trimmed with flat wood jambs and architrave.

In the library wing, which was a later addition on the north, the door in its west wall is oak, 3'-0" x 6'-11" x 2-1/2". The center inset panel is treated with applied molding in a complex geometric pattern. It has unusual wrought-iron handles, escutcheons and door-knocker. The wood door frame is set in the stuccoed reveal. The jamb is formed into a large-scaled baluster and the lintel is chamfered in tongues with fleur-de-lis incised in the center. A similar door occurs on the north wall. This treatment of wood frames also occurs at the glazed wall on the north end of the house. The upper and lower parts of the French doors on the east wall of the library are hinged separately. The upper part, 32' x 70" contains eight lights, 12" x 15". The lower part is solid with cross-shaped paneling.

In the north wall of the library, French doors, 2'-8" x 8'-6", contain ten lights, 11" x 17" with decorated stone trim. At the surround, slender engaged twisted Ionic columns support a denticulated entablature flanked by a baluster finial over each column. Over the entablature, the random ashlar tympanum of the arch contains a pseudo-armorial escutcheon, and the arch-volt is framed in small-scaled dentil molding and egg-and-dart.

Doors on the east and west walls of the dining room are French doors, 2'-3" x 7'-10", with four lights, 20" x 18" over a shallow wood panel.

- b. Windows: On the south and east walls of the dining room, windows are single-hung, with the lower operating sash 4'-8" x 2'-6". The upper sash, 4'-0" high, is enclosed in scrolled wood trim at the head. In the library, wood casements on the south wall are 1'-5" x 9'-7" with five lights, 13" x 15". The trim is cast stone. On the east wall, casements are 2'-7" x 5'-7" with six lights, 12" x 15" over two raised wood panels.

On the second floor, north wall, windows are double-hung, two over two lights, 15" x 21". Wood casements on the east wall are three-light, either 18" x 16" or 15" x 16". In the west wall there is a Palladian-type window which was not accessible. The central window contains nine lights with an arched transom above. It is flanked by a single casement of six lights. On the west wall of the stairway are two high vertical windows with arched heads. The single-hung, lower sash, 3'-0" x 4'-9", contains nine lights, 11" x 17". The fixed sash contains six lights and the fanlight five.

8. Roof; \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Shape and covering: Except for the roof of the tower and the library, which are hipped, all roofs are gabled, with red clay knee tiles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: There are wood bracketed eaves with no cornice molding except on the small projecting bays on the second-floor east wall. The cast-concrete cornice on the one-story library addition, however, is of deep cast stone with molded architrave and a frieze containing repeated double banded globes in high relief faced with crossed straps or bands, and separated by vertical bands terminating in rosettes. Above the frieze are running bands of dentils and geometric ornament separated by a bead-and-reel astragal with a modified egg-and-dart molding.
- c. Cupolas, towers: A four-story tower with open belvedere is located directly above the depressed driveway entrance beneath the three-story mass of the house. The tower is framed by 4'-8" x 4'-8" stuccoed piers at each angle--the piers thickened like a buttress between the first and second levels. At the northeast corner the tower is connected to the tall free-standing chimney with an arched buttress. The tower is reached by an enclosed spiral metal stair also at the northeast corner. Above the hipped tile roof are two chimney-like masses on the northeast, near the buttress. They are surmounted by wrought-iron filigree outlining a phantom cupola decorated with finials and crockets of metal. Because of the piers, the tower seems to be buttressed on the south down to the covered passageway over the depressed driveway.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans: Basically three stories, the house is one room deep, with all major rooms facing the terrace looking toward the ocean on the east, but disposed along corridors on the west. Louvered doors between bedrooms and corridor provide cross ventilation.

2. First-floor rooms:

- a. Entrance foyer: At the lowest level, this small entrance foyer is flanked on the east by a ladies' lounge and on the west by a mens' lounge. North of the ladies' lounge is the furnace room, with a modern heating and air-conditioning system. The floor of the entrance foyer is of square quarry Key limestone set diagonally, bordered by rectangular quarry Key limestone and baseboard. Walls are rough-textured plaster with painted mural decoration. The ceiling is barrel-vaulted in rough plaster. Entry doors are solid wood planks with exposed boltheads and carved linenfold panels. Interior doors are paneled vertically. Windows on the west wall open on a light well enclosed with painted stucco. Leaded clear and colored glass lanterns are suspended from the ceiling. The main stairway begins at north end of the entrance foyer, beneath a segmental arched opening. The nosed cast-concrete treads are over tile risers in red, blue, and white checkerboard pattern. The riser-landing scheme between the foyer and the first floor is 8-2-8, and between the first and second floor 8-3-8. The landings are defined by arched openings between plastered vaulted ceilings, quadripartite on the first floor and barrel on the second floor. Walls are of rough plaster over a simulated rusticated wainscot. There is a small wood casement on the first floor and two tall single-hung windows on the second floor. Space for a sitting alcove over the stairwell is marked off in spiral wrought-iron filigree panels. The alcove is framed by a cast cable molding decorated with festoons.
- b. East terrace entrance: This is the major access to the ocean. The floor is of cast-concrete pavers in a geometric design of beige and brown. The rough plastered walls are painted over a paneled wood wainscot on the north wall. The ceiling is plastered between exposed beams and joists. In the last bay the beams are supported by two cast-concrete brackets of different sizes. That on the north is a large cast acanthus. The one on the south wall is similar and decorated with a face and a spiral column with modified Ionic capital, painted in red, green, and brown. In addition to the French doors leading to the east and west exteriors, there are large sliding doors leading to the living room on the north, and the dining room on the south. The fireplace has a rough-plastered hood over a plain cast-stone lintel supported by two plain pilasters and cast-stone brackets. The hearth is raised. A wrought-iron railing is located at the change in floor level in the room.
- c. Dining room: The floor is imitation marble painted on concrete. It is bordered by green marble edged by two red bands. Above a 2'-0" wainscot and baseboard painted dark green, the walls are of textured plaster.

There is a simple crown molding at the ceiling. The painted plaster ceiling is divided into three panels by shallow beams with smooth edges, supported by consoles with cable molding and gouge work. Beams and consoles are painted in reds and greens, with decorative medallions on the beam face picked out in colors and set off by notches in the beam edges.

A 4'-6" wide sliding door, with six panels, opens to the terrace, and a double-acting door leads to the pantry. The French doors on the east and west walls are trimmed at the top with a gilt-edged scalloped valence marked off with miniature spiral columns, painted and applied over the natural wood surface. Mythological beasts and acanthus arabesques are used at the head of the doors to the adjoining breakfast room. The projecting fireplace on the south wall has a rough plastered conical hood resting on a cast-stone lintel edged at the base with a torus molding and a removable wood strip covered by a dependent smoke shield of embossed leather. The lintel is supported by two projecting paneled pilasters. The raised and recessed brick hearth is faced with decoratively painted glazed tiles. A false chimney hood on the chimney face is flanked by two scallop shells. Foliated sconces are located on the walls. Door handles are scroll-shaped.

- d. Breakfast room: Flooring and baseboard are imitation green marble. There are two pedimented niches in the plastered walls. Ceilings are plastered. Two sets of French doors, with three lights each, open to the adjoining dining room. Windows on the south and east walls are double-hung, one over one lights, with fixed glazed transoms. Door handles on the French doors are of scrolled brass.
- e. Living room: Three risers lead from the entrance foyer to the living room on the north. The risers are faced with decorative tiles. There is a wrought-iron railing with curved balustrade and twisted balusters. Floors are of oak. The painted plaster walls rise above a hand-painted tile wainscot. The cypress ceiling is decorated with molding and a simple shallow cornice. The two transverse beams flanking the fireplace are decoratively painted and are edged with bead and reel molding. The most decorative doorway leads to the entrance foyer. The trim combines cyma molding, a band of medallions and cable molding with the architrave decorated with dentils and acanthus. The 2" thick door slides into a wall pocket.

On the west wall are French doors. The one on the south-west is stepped up with painted tile risers. The central opening is arched in a deep reveal, surrounded by cast concrete moldings edged by a cable molding.

There are three arched doorways on the north wall enclosing French doors. The fluted decoration and wrought-iron grille in the fanlight are repeated in the exterior. The fireplace on the east wall is limestone, hooded to the ceiling. The mantel, supported by curved consoles on engaged Corinthian columns, is decorated with a heraldic crest, acanthus, and denticulated molding. The hearth is limestone. The trefoil wrought-iron firescreen is decorated with dragons. There are sconces, also of wrought iron, on the walls.

- f. Library: This room is an obvious addition east of the pool patio. An exterior stairway on the west wall leads to a glazed sleeping porch. The floor and baseboard are of quarry tile. Walls are of painted plaster except for the wood partition separating the room from bath and dressing room on the north, where their ceilings are dropped below the ceiling of the main library room. The pecky cypress partition terminates in a parapet above a denticulated cornice which surmounts eight turned wood balusters on a shelf-like base. The planked polychrome ceiling on exposed joists takes the form of the exterior hipped roof. Three pairs of spaced transverse beams occur at quarter points. They are supported by heavily carved brackets incorporated in the deep cornice which is composed of vertical siding and a crown molding. Diagonal cross bracing is set between the spaced beams. The doorway in the north wood partition is arched. The doorway on the west wall is set in a deep scalloped reveal. On the exterior of this door, the screened door is decorated with a whimsical design of a spider trapping a fly in its web. Window openings set in deep reveals have wood sills on the east, and quarry-tile sills on the south. The fireplace has a stuccoed hood up to the cornice. Acanthus brackets above spiral columns support the mantel which is decorated with acanthus and cable molding. The hearth is concrete.

3. Second-floor rooms:

- a. Corridor: At the stairway there is a sitting alcove up three oak risers. Corridor floors are oak. Walls and ceiling are plaster except in the alcove which has a shallow coffered ceiling decorated with cable molding and medallions. All doors to bedrooms are louvered. Trim is of pecky cypress. The east wall has built-in linen closets with doors and drawers. There are six wall lamps with mirrored backs.
- b. Master bedroom suite: This is located at the extreme north end of the house, with the bedroom having exposures on the west, north, and south. It appears to have been a sunporch.

The floors are dark varnished hardwood. Walls below the windows are 3" tongue-and-groove siding and plaster on the south wall. They are decorated with a painted underwater scene. The painted plaster ceiling is an elongated quadripartite vault above a simple crown molding. Doors to the sitting room of the suite are solid, 3-paneled, painted to match the murals on the wall. Doors to the balcony on the north have one small light over two wood panels, painted to match the wall murals also. The sitting room (which may have been the original bedroom) has painted plaster walls without cornice molding. The door to the bath is mirrored. Other doors are three-paneled. The fireplace has two paneled projecting sidepieces supporting the mantel decorated with hounds tooth trim. The hearth is concrete. West of the fireplace is an arched niche with a built-in shelving and a cast sea shell at the top.

- c. Bedrooms: Four bedrooms on the east and one on the southwest complete the second floor. The floors are varnished oak with simple baseboards, either varnished or painted to match other trim. Walls and ceilings are painted plaster except in the two rooms on the southeast which are wallpapered. The ceiling in the room adjacent on the south to the sitting room is vaulted. Door frames, 5" wide, are simply molded. Doors contain three vertical panels. Typical windows are wood casements. The fireplace in the southwest bedroom is of faced with cast stone with a quarry tile hearth. In the southeast and adjacent bedroom on the north, fireplaces are of dark stained oak with a paneled mantel. Openings are framed with cast concrete and with concrete hearths. The fireplace in the remaining bedroom has a dark stained mantel edged with a simple molding and a fluted band. The trim at the sides is simulated tortoise shell.

4. Third floor:

- a. Bedrooms: There are two bedrooms at this level. In the east bedroom, floors are dark stained hardwood planks. The sand-finished plastered walls are painted. Ceiling is smooth painted plaster. Double in-swinging doors are paneled with exterior doors louvered in two panels. Doors are finished in light antiqued paint. Sandstone fireplace has terra-cotta hearth.

There is a modern adjacent bathroom. In the west bedroom, finishes are similar, except that the floors are of composition tile, and the plastered ceiling is slightly vaulted.

- 5. The tower: Reached by an open riser, metal, spiral stair, the tower's belvedere commands an open view in all directions. The floor is painted sheet metal. The railing-high wall is stuccoed and capped with copper. The ceiling has shallow coffers with a diamond pattern painted in the panels. Rafters are exposed under the eaves.



D. Site and surroundings:

1. General setting: The residence is located on a large estate which extends from Lake Worth on the west to the Atlantic Ocean on the east, with north-south U. S. Highway A1A running through it east-west, as it divides all estates here into east and west sections. The residence is located east of the highway. The entrance driveway winds through a screen of dense tropical growth in its natural state. As the drive nears the house it circles under the breeze-way leading to the servants' quarters. On the east the trimmed lawn presents an open vista to the ocean and the natural beach below a low concrete retaining wall. On the north the tropical growth is cleared for the swimming pool and adjacent patio. A relatively small grassy area is adjacent to the house on the north, screened from the highway by plantings.
2. Outbuildings: There is a caretaker's cottage inside the entrance on the north. There is also a small beach pavilion, thatched with palm fronds, located northeast of the house.

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Summer 1971

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Florida project to survey the historic architecture of Palm Beach and to emphasize written historical and architectural data was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Historical Society of Palm Beach County and the Florida Board of Archives and History in the summer of 1971. Under the direction of James C. Massey, then Chief of HABS, the project was carried out in the Historic American Buildings Survey field office in the Flagler Museum, Whitehall Way, Palm Beach, with Professor Woodrow W. Wilkins, AIA (University of Miami) Project Supervisor; Richard C. Crisson, Architect (University of Florida); Richard High, Student Architect (Georgia Institute of Technology); and Bryan Bowman, Student Historian (University of Florida). Under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS from March 1972, additional documentation was prepared. Archival photographs for the project were taken in April 1972 by Jack E. Boucher, HABS photographer. Editing and final preparation of the documentation was carried out in 1980 in the HABS Washington office by Lucy Pope Wheeler of the HABS professional staff.

ADDENDUM TO  
CHESTER C. BOLTON HOUSE  
(CASA APARA)  
1300 South Ocean Boulevard  
Palm Beach  
Palm Beach County  
Florida

HABS No. FL-232

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